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JUN 27 2006

Appl. No. 10/766,250
Amdt. dated June 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of April 27, 2006
Attorney Docket 17299

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please see attached marked-up versions of proposed replacement drawing sheets along with non-marked formal versions.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-11 are currently pending for examination. Claims 1, 4, and 7 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled and Claims 12-22 were previously withdrawn. No new matter has been added.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for failing to include reference sign(s) mentioned in the description. Appropriate corrections to the drawings have been made. In particular, reference numeral 2 has been added to Fig. 1a. Reference numeral 2' has been added to Fig. 1b along with reference numeral β' and a ' has been added to existing reference numeral α . Fig. 1c has had a ' added to existing reference numeral Pa and existing reference numeral α has had a " more clearly marked. Grounds for the corrections to the drawings can be found in the specification, in particular on pages 6-10. No new matter has been added. A clean copy of the replacement sheets is attached to this amendment along with a marked-up copy of the replacement sheets showing all changes circled. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner specifically indicated that Claim 2 was unclear.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled. The ambiguity of Claim 4 has been corrected as Claim 4 has been amended to depend from Claim 1 and as such is believed to be in condition for allowance. Likewise, Claims 5 and 6 now depend indirectly from Claim 1 and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 4-6 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pond et al. (6,036,201).

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In order for a reference to be an anticipatory reference, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. It is respectfully submitted that Pond does not teach or suggest all the elements recited in Claims 1 or 7. In particular, Pond at minimum fails to teach or disclose "a central axle portion extending perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of symmetry entirely across a width of the central body" as is presently claimed in Claims 1 and 7.

Conversely, Pond appears to teach a vehicle having a power transfer unit (80) which is much narrower than the vehicle body (12) and which obviously does not extend "entirely across a width of the central body" as presently claimed in Claims 1 and 7 of the present application.

For at least this reason, the obviousness rejection based on the reference of Pond should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited reference of Pond fails to teach or make any mention of any kind of benefit to turning radius as is taught by the present invention but instead merely teaches an adjustable vehicle suspension.

Withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 and 7 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 2-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pond et al.

Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled thus obviating the need to address their rejection.

Claims 4-6 depend from directly and indirectly from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable over the cited reference of Pond for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested

Rejection of Claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pond et al. (6,036,201) in view of Osburn et al. (6,568,696).

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of

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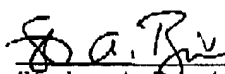
success. Finally, the applied reference must teach or suggest all the claim limitations (See MPEP §2143).

It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action does not meet the criteria for establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Applicant respectfully submits, as previously discussed, that Pond et al. fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of Claim 7, in particular "a central axle portion extending perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of symmetry entirely across a width of the central body." The cited reference of Osburn also fails to teach or suggest such a limitation as claimed in Claim 7. As Claims 8-11 depend from Claim 7, which should be allowed over the cited references of Pond and Osburn, Claims 8-11 should also be allowed over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If Examiner believes a telephone conference would accelerate the examination of this application he is encouraged to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



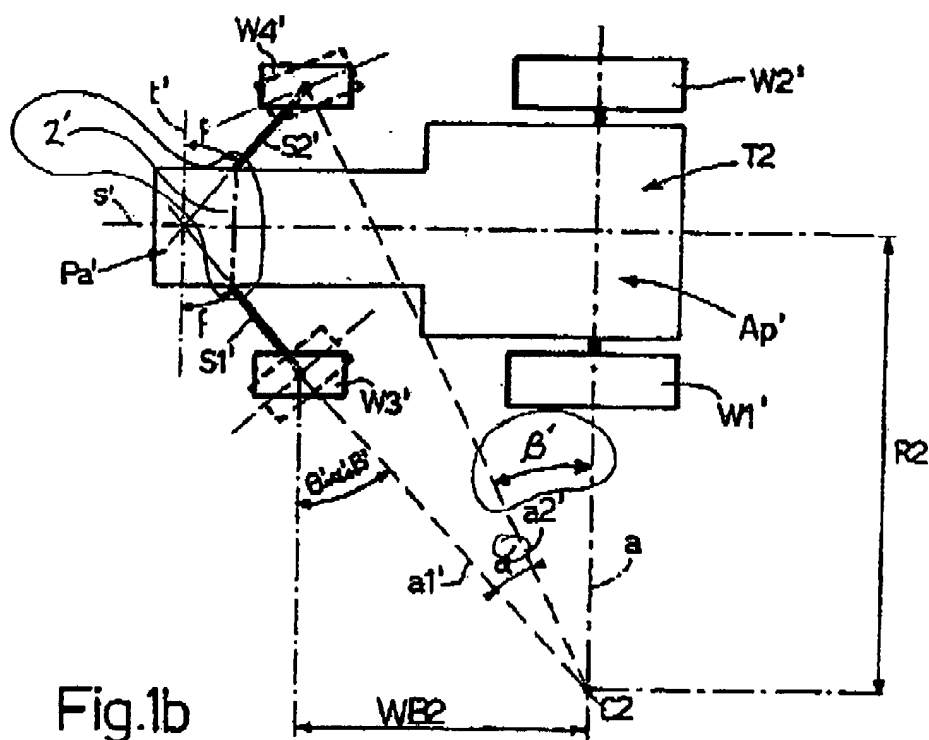
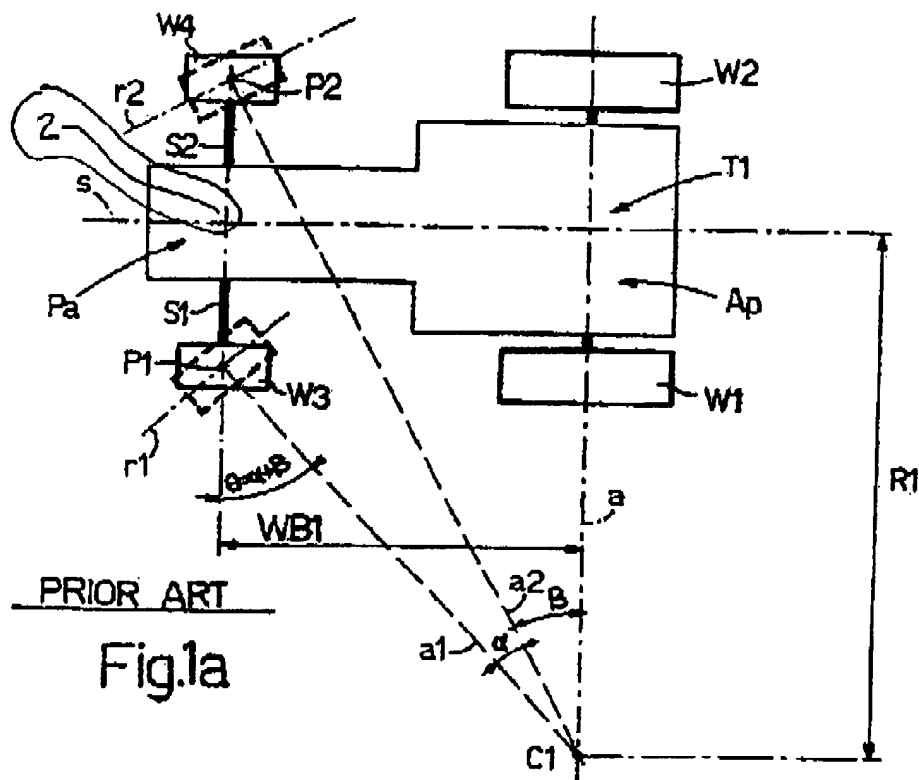
Stephen A. Buccianeri
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 54, 928

(717) 355-4954 Phone

(717) 355-3107 Fax

Marked-up copy
Replacement Sheet

Sheet 1 of 12



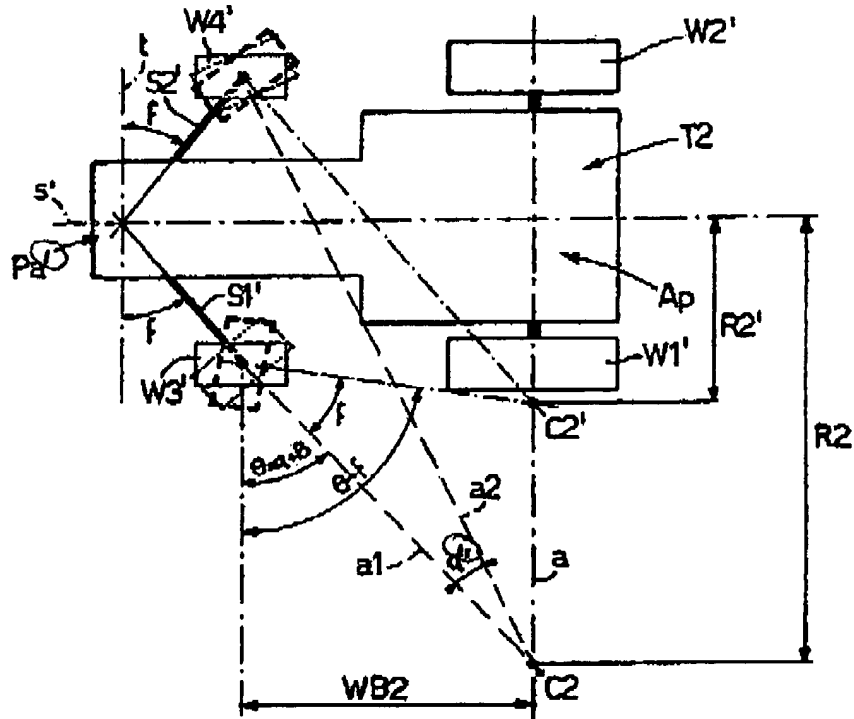


Fig. 1c